

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

DEVB(W)141

(Question Serial No. 5597)

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent
Programme: (4) Centralised Services and Special Support
Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (Alfred W H SIT)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Development

Question:

What are the estimated expenditure and work plans of “807 Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme”? Why is funding for this new commitment item sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill? Despite the above-mentioned is not a new arrangement, why is funding not sought separately from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Chiu-hung, Fernando (LegCo internal reference no.: 804)

Reply:

In view of the encouraging responses of the first-round application of the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme (LIMSS), the Government has earmarked in the 2020-21 Budget a sum of \$2 billion for the expanded scheme, thereby increasing the overall number of aged lifts to be subsidised from the original 5 000 to 8 000. The Government partnered with the Urban Renewal Authority to implement the LIMSS with a view to facilitating lift modernisation in the community through the provision of financial incentive with appropriate professional support to the building owners in need. To avoid inflating market prices for such modernisation works and affecting works quality, the LIMSS will be rolled out in an orderly manner over seven years starting from 2019-20.

The arrangement to include in the draft Estimates funding proposals for creating commitments or increasing expenditure ceilings for approved commitment items under the General Revenue Account for scrutiny and approval by the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the context of the Appropriation Bill is in line with the requirements under sections 5 and 6 of the Public Finance Ordinance. The Government explained the relevant arrangements to the Finance Committee in early 2015. In this particular case, before the funding proposal was included in the draft Estimates, we provided relevant information to and briefed the LegCo Panel on Development in December 2019. We have included the necessary provision for this proposal under the respective heads and subheads of expenditure, as well as provided appropriate information in the Controlling Officer's Report to facilitate Members' consideration.